

Burlington Planning Commission

149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
Telephone: (802) 865-7188
(802) 865-7195 (FAX)
(802) 865-7144 (TTY)
www.burlingtonvt.gov/planning

*Yves Bradley, Chair
Bruce Baker, Vice-Chair
Lee Buffinton
Emily Lee
Andy Montroll
Harris Roen
Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur
Holly Ransom, Youth Member*



Burlington Planning Commission

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 09, 2015 - 6:30 P.M.

Conference Room #12, Ground Floor, City Hall, 149 Church Street

MINUTES

Present: B. Baker, A. Montroll, H. Roen, E. Lee, J. Wallace-Brodeur

Absent: Y Bradley, L Buffinton

I. Agenda 6:33

No changes. B Baker initiates meeting.

II. Public Forum

No speakers

III. Report of the Chair

The Chair was absent, no report from the Vice Chair.

IV. Report of the Director

The Director presented the following report:

- He is working on a process for S Thibault's position and hoping to schedule interviews the last of June.
- He has been busy gathering comments for Planbtv South End.
- The Draft release party is scheduled a week from tonight at Arts Riot and again the following morning. An on line commenting tool will be available to the public and as well, he will take the presentation on the road to different groups. There will be public discussion until the middle of August.
- The FBC group meets tomorrow, 7:00 pm at DPW. They are discussing process and have finished the review of district 6 zoning.

V. Residential Parking Study

Nicole Loesch from the Department of Public Works speaks about the residential parking study.

During the past year her department has been undertaking a study of residential parking. She has heard from numerous sources that program is not meeting the needs of the public. There are a lot of issues. She also felt that it was important to coordinate her work with the Downtown/Waterfront study.

As approved by the Planning Commission on XXXXX, 2015.

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

This has never been done before, it was previously a reactive process.

The picked three different neighborhoods and have been collecting and analyzing. She has held a couple of public forum which have included the draft plan.

There is a clear need for more technologically informative information and physical changes affecting signage, administration, pricing. They are improving the external processes for both the city and neighborhoods, recognizing that there are different sorts of neighborhoods where different strategies will need to be offered.

They will work to improve sustainable parking/student/commuter parking/ residential parking, with hours adjusted based on demand. There will be limitation of the number of passes per dwelling unit.

Potential new strategies: coordinating the residential parking passes database with campus databases, enable satellite parking by making it easier to get permits.

H Roen: In the past the number of permits issued has been a problem.

N Loesch: They will track with permits with an on line system which will charge for residential visitor parking. There is a possibility that approved landlords could issue permits to tenants and commuters. They are considering establishing regulations by areas, not streets. There are some problems trying to rebalance the parking available. One method of being pro active could be having permit dates follow the academic calendar.

She has tried to interact by meeting with some smaller neighborhoods which has provided very good information. Parking is a quality of life issue. Flexibility in strategy is important, she is work with the campuses but it is clear that a blanket policy will not fit. There is one final advisory committee meeting. When it comes to addressing the zoning portion, she wants to work with the Planning Commission.

B Baker: There are lots of empty parking spaces on weekends.

N Loesch: Oakledge Park is one area which may present opportunities for improvement.

A Montroll: He attended Ward 6 NPA meeting and one at a church in April and observed a lot of push back. It seems one thing that was not articulated is defining the goals of the study. It appears some neighborhoods have enough parking and some not enough (for residents). Good availability helps calm people.

N Loesch: Agrees that they haven't achieved buy in on the goals. She needs a better way to present this concept. The message did get lost. She has concern about block specific strategies

J Wallace-Brodeur: Are you going to try to get to more micro level, addressing different issues/areas?

N Loesch: She didn't plan to define particular areas for the study but now will try to match strategies and neighborhoods.

E Lee: This is an important conversation for the Planning Commission and DPW to have around parking on lawns which needs to be addressed with enforcement and prevention.

D White: We need to change the way the City enforces the rules and have to acknowledge grandfathering with new policies. One question; In presentations did you or DPW address the purpose of the public right of way, what does the City's need? There need to be protocols established about how the public right of way is managed.

N Loesch: The City's intent is stated in the Climate Action Plan. The transportation plan must meet the City's interest and the citizens' interests.

A Montroll: It appears that the wants and needs could be conflicting.

E Lee: There is a conversation to be had about fairness.

H Roen: He would hope this process would create fairness.

Nathan Wildfire, CEDO: Frames residential parking as a black and white issue, going through the toolkit in each neighborhood is the way to figure out a solution. Just at Brookes Avenue, the number one program is driveways being blocked. There are specific issues for specific situations which require specific solutions. It is a very nuanced and complicated situation.

A Montroll: The system seem to be haphazard, the project has proposed good solutions.

VI. Downtown Parking Study

Nate Wildfire, CEDO Office and Kelley Devine, Burlington Business Association.

The Goals:

- deliver great customer service
- achieve a sustainable parking system
- maximize parking and transportation resources for downtown vibrant downtown.
-

Principles: Establish collaborative governments, a unified parking system. There are over 1000 empty spaces during peak times, there will need to be measured implementations to make changes keeping in mind that it will not be right the first time.

Burlington Town has garage eliminated two hour free parking. Employers need access to a flat rate for employees.

H Roen: It seems as if there are empty spaces, there should be a way to offer reduced fee and establish parking plans.

K Devine: The study is still in bits and pieces but is coming together.

N Wildfire: Patterns are not changing much but more parking is available. Wayfinding presently stinks, there is a new system coming, private parking is being studied, conferences, and on-going work.

Parking was the number one complaint when he started work in Burlington, but as time goes on it will be possible to invest in alternatives.

Sometimes our zoning code creates a rule for unneeded spaces. Seventh Generation is a good example; they actively encourage employees to get out of cars.

The Parking Management District and Go Burlington! are good tools.

The ultimate goal is to create a public/private collaborative to meet the needs of downtown. There are only five meter checkers in the city, with two on duty at any given time.

A lot of their study findings support the proposed zoning policies about parking. They are now going back to arts communities, businesses, etc to follow up with facts and ideas and gather thoughts and ideas from these entities with which they will go to the DPW Commission, the City Council, and the Planning Commission.

Some clarification relative to the PMD management district big picture is needed, essentially, who does what? The public is concerned about the operation of a parking system which can be defined by the zoning ordinance.

K Devine: These are good transportation options and this is the time to get the system working.

N Wildfire: All of this is an experiment. A lot will work, a lot will need to be killed or tweaked.

D White: This project couldn't have happened without public/private partnership.

J Wallace-Brodeur: A discussion about implementing the parking policy would seem necessary. How will two plans interact? The physical location of meters is bad in winter, it is just about impossible to clear the sidewalks.

VII. Assistant Administrative Officer Appointment Recommendation

D White: Zoning Administrator, Ken Lerner, will be resigning at end of month. He would like the interim Chief Administrative Officer to be Senior Planner Scott Gustin. He is looking to the Planning Commission to recommend that the City Council endorse this interim appointment. In the meantime, he is examining some possible restructuring of responsibilities for the office.

On a motion by E Lee, seconded by H Roen, the Commission unanimously voted to accept the recommendations and forward them to the City Council.

VIII. Committee Reports

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

- Long Range Planning Committee: hasn't met since the Capital Improvement Plan presentation, and should meet after the Planbtv South End draft meeting.
- Form Based Code sub committee has a meeting tomorrow, they have made a lot of progress but yet there is lots to do.
- Executive Committee
- Ordinance Committee: Examining the possibility of changing the meeting time.

IX. Commissioner Items

None.

X. Minutes/Communications

Minutes of the May 26, 2015 meeting are incomplete so **on a motion by E Lee, seconded by A Montroll, the Commission unanimously voted to defer the minutes to the next meeting.**

XI. Adjourn

On a motion by J Wallace-Brodeur, seconded by A Montroll, the Commission unanimously adjourned at 8:24 pm.

B Baker, Vice Chair

Date



E. Tillotson, Recording Secretary